

II. In The Drawings

Please refer to the "Replacement Sheet" accompanying this paper, which "Replacement Sheet" comprises FIGS. 3a and 3b and in which the lug 56 referenced at page 9 of the specification is now identified.

IV. Remarks

Claims 13-21 are pending in this case, the previously pending claims 1-12 having been canceled by this paper, and the new claims 13-21 added. The newly added claims are directed toward various embodiments of a hand-held device for gripping objects positioned beyond arm's length disclosed in the application as filed. Accordingly, no new matter is submitted by this paper.

Applicant proposes a new Abstract in view of the newly added claims. This Abstract is in compliance with the form and content requirement for abstracts generally, including as set out in the Official Action to which this paper is responsive.

Applicant has amended the written specification to address the examiner's objections to the drawings, and has further amended FIG. 3b to identify the previously omitted reference numeral 56.

While Applicant does not acquiesce in the examiner's rejection of any of the now-canceled claims 1-12 in view of the cited prior art, those rejections are respectfully submitted to be moot in view of the newly presented claims, all of which patentably define over the prior art of record, taken alone or in any permissible combination. More particularly, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the art of record, including the Hsu (6,739,637) or Huang (6,240,815) patents, taken alone or in any combination, teach or render obvious *at least*:

(1) A hand-held device for gripping objects positioned beyond arm's length, comprising a pair of jaws movable relative to each other between an unclamped position and a fully clamped position; a handle spaced apart from said pair of jaws by a central portion, said handle including a trigger connected to said pair of jaws by a pull member,

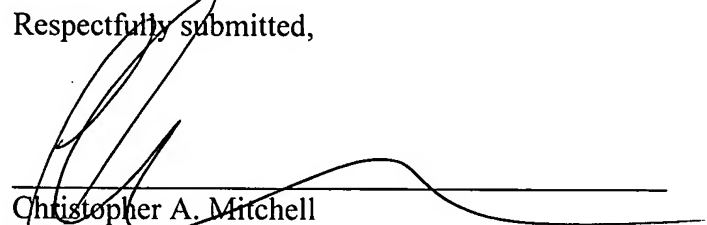
whereby actuation of said trigger is operative to move said pair of jaws between the unclamped and fully clamped positions thereof, and a locking mechanism selectively operable to lock said pair of jaws in at least one intermediate position defined between said unclamped and fully clamped positions; and wherein the pull member is sufficiently resilient so as to permit said pair of jaws to be temporarily urged away from each other towards the unclamped position thereof when the pair of jaws are locked in the at least one intermediate position, all as recited in pending claim 13; OR

(2) a hand-held device for gripping objects positioned beyond arm's length, comprising a first pair of jaws movable relative to each other between an unclamped position and a fully clamped position; a handle spaced apart from said pair of jaws by a central portion, said handle including a trigger connected to said pair of jaws by a pull member, whereby actuation of said trigger is operative to selectively position said pair of jaws between the unclamped and fully clamped positions thereof; and wherein each of the pair of jaws includes a gripping portion freely removably connected thereto, all as recited in pending claim 17.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application stands in condition for immediate allowance. Of course, the examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel at (734) 662-0270 should he have any questions respecting this paper, or if a telephone interview might otherwise expedite the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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